

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02424 170620Z

13-11

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 PM-03 SAM-01 EUR-08 PA-01 USIA-01

/048 W

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P 170458Z DEC 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4916

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2424

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH

SUBJECT: DEATH OF KANG SHENG

1. PRC MEDIA HAVE ANNOUNCED THE DEATH DECEMBER 16 OF COMMUNIST PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN KANG SHENG. KANG, WHO WAS NUMBER FOUR IN THE PARTY HIERARCHY, HAD BEEN ILL FOR SEVERAL YEARS. PEOPLE'S DAILY HEADLINED KANG'S LONGSTANDING OPPOSITION TO "REVISIONISM" AND MADE THE ANTI-SOVIET CONTEXT MORE EXPLICIT IN THE TEXT BY USING THE TERM "MODERN REVISIONISM." KANG IS THE SECOND TOP-RANKING OLD COMRADE OF MAO TO DIE IN A LITTLE OVER NINE MONTHS (TUNG PI-WU DIED IN APRIL) AND HIS DEATH LEAVES ANOTHER VACANCY ON THE PARTY STANDING COMMITTEE.

2. KANG ALSO HAD A HIGH BUT LARGELY SYMBOLIC GOVERNMENT POSITION AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. HE WAS PRIMARILY A PARTY MAN, HOWEVER. HE HEADED THE SECRET POLICE AND WAS CHIEF ENFORCER OF MAO'S LINE IN THE PARTY FOR MANY YEARS. HE WAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IDENTIFIED IN ANY WAY WITH THE NEW SINO-U.S. RELATIONSHIP. WE THUS DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO SEND A LETTER OF CONDOLENCE ON KANG'S DEATH. IF A STATE FUNERAL IS HELD LIKE THE ONE FOR TUNG PI-WU LAST SPRING, WE WOULD  
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PAGE 02 PEKING 02424 170620Z

EXPECT TO SIGN THE CONDOLENCE BOOK ALONG WITH THE DIPLOMATIC

CORPS IN PEKING. PRELIMINARY THINKING OF THE BRITISH, FRENCH,  
JAPANESE AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES IS ALONG THE SAME LINES.  
THAYER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEATHS, PARTY LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEATH OF KANG SHENG  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, CH, (KANG SHENG)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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